

Remarks

In the Office Action, the Claims 1-5, 8-46, and 48-50 are allowed; claims 29-30 and 36-37 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 23-28 and 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,508,353 issued to Liu et al. ("Liu").

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the finding of claims 1-5, 8-46, and 48-50 as allowable and have rewritten claim 29-30 and claims 36-37 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 29-30 were canceled and the limitations of original claims 29-30 were combined to form new claim 51. Additionally, Claim 36-37 were also canceled and the limitations of original claims 36-37 were combined to form new claim 52. Reconsideration and allowance of new claims 51 and 52 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claim 53 provides a graft copolymer comprising a backbone comprising a molecular weight distribution less than 2.0 and free radically polymerizable monomer units, at least one first graft segment comprising at least one of a polyolefin, a poly(lactic acid) and a polysiloxane distributed along the backbone, and a second graft segment, wherein the second graft segment has a different composition than the first graft segment. New claims 53-55 are supported in the specification as filed, for example, on page 7, lines 1-7; page

16, lines 8-16; page 17, lines 7-11; page 22, lines 20-31 and Figure 4, as well as in the Examples.

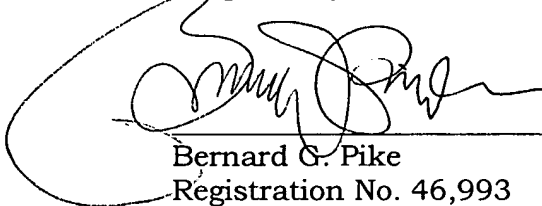
35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claim 23 stands rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by Liu. Applicant has herein amended claim 23 to include the limitation that the backbone is a block-graft copolymer. Liu does not disclose, suggest or motivate one skilled in the art to produce a graft copolymer comprising a backbone that is a block copolymer. The backbone of the polymers of Liu may be random copolymers but are not block copolymers. The incorporation of macromonomers in a living polymerization process with monomer and compatible macroinitiators allows the formation of such polymers. Therefore, claim 23 is not anticipated or obvious based upon the disclosure of Liu. Reconsideration of claim 23 and the claims dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to fully respond to the all the issues presented in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the subject application. If the Examiner has any concerns regarding Applicants' present response, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard G. Pike", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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